

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CBROWN:LM

APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

EUR:JAARMITAGE

S/S - MR. LUERS

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R 102250Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175362

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU, CZ, BU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION: BRIEFING OF  
CZECHOSLOVAK AND BULGARIAN AMBASSADORS  
AND HUNGARIAN CHARGE

1. AS PART OF DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFINGS OF WASHINGTON-BASED  
CHIEFS OF MISSION, AMBASSADORS SPACIL AND POPOV AND CHARGE  
FEKETE WERE CALLED IN COLLECTIVELY THIS MORNING FOR TALK  
WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY STRESSED DESIRE OF NEW ADMINISTRATION  
TO MAINTAIN POLICIES OF PRESIDENT NIXON AIMED AT IMPROVED  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE USSR AND THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN  
EUROPE. THIS POLICY HAS THE BACKING OF BOTH MAJOR PARTIES,  
AND THE TRANSITION TO A NEW PRESIDENCY IS EXPECTED TO  
PROCEED VERY SMOOTHLY. THIS IS REFLECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL  
SOUNDNESS AND STABILITY OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS. PRESIDENT  
FORD HAS ASKED DR. KISSINGER TO REMAIN AS SECRETARY OF  
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STATE, SO USG SEES NO REASON TO EXPECT ANYTHING BUT FURTHER

IMPROVEMENT AND ENLARGEMENT OF LINKS WITH EE. WE REALIZE THAT PROGRESS OVER RECENT YEARS HAS NOT BEEN UNIFORMLY SMOOTH, BUT WE ARE SATISFIED THAT RELATIONS ARE ON BASICALLY POSITIVE COURSE. WE RECOGNIZE PARTICULAR INTERESTS OF HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND BULGARIA IN U.S. TRADE LEGISLATION AND MFN AND WE HOPE THAT WITH IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS NO LONGER IMMINENT CONGRESS CAN TURN ITS ATTENTION TO TRADE BILL.

THE AMBASSADORS AND THE CHARGE EACH EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DESCRIPTION OF U.S. POLICIES AND SAID THEIR GOVERNMENTS FULLY SHARED DESIRE OF U.S. TO MOVE RELATIONS ALONG PRESENT FAVORABLE COURSE. CZECH AMBASSADOR SPACIL CITED SETTLEMENT OF FINANCIAL CLAIMS AS WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT SETTING STAGE FOR A NUMBER OF OTHER POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR POPOV ASKED FOR MR. INGERSOLL'S ASSESSMENT OF CHANCES OF TRADE BILL, CITING RUMORS THAT A CONGRESSIONAL COMPROMISE HAS BEEN STRUCK PERMITTING A FAVORABLE VOTE ON THE BILL. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUCH RUMORS ARE BEING REPEATED AND THAT IN GENERAL HE IS SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC NOW THAN HE WAS A FEW WEEKS AGO. NO ONE, HE STRESSED, CAN PREDICT THE OUTCOME AS YET, ALTHOUGH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION CAN BE COUNTED ON TO CONTINUE THE DRIVE FOR PASSAGE OF TRADE BILL NOW BEFORE CONGRESS.

5. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID PLANS FOR VISIT OF DEPUTY PREMIER POPOV WOULD PROCEED AS HERETOFORE. KISSINGER

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